



JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

January 17, 2013

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

The Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, which advises me on the Hanford Site cleanup, is deeply concerned about the recent discovery that the inner liner of a Hanford double-shell tank is leaking. The board has determined that it is time for Hanford to construct additional storage capacity for high-level waste. The board does not make this recommendation lightly – it understands that building additional tank capacity is not a permanent solution for Hanford, it just buys us a bit more time. In addition, Hanford's budget is already inadequate to meet compliance milestones. Building new tank capacity represents a significant new expenditure.

Nevertheless, the clear degradation of at least one double-shell tank; the continued technical problems with the construction of the Waste Treatment Plant complex; and the ongoing need to retrieve and store waste from the old single-shell tanks demand immediate action to develop additional tank capacity.

We don't presume to know the technical specifications of waste storage that will meet current and future needs at Hanford – whether it is four new tanks, or six, or whether some combination of sizes and above-and below-ground tanks is needed. We leave that to you and your experts to determine. However, it is clear that Hanford needs additional capacity and the sooner the better. The board also believes that new tank capacity should be integrated to meet needs of the Waste Treatment Plant for blending, mixing and waste staging.

Advocating for new tank capacity should in no way be construed as doubt about the need for the Waste Treatment Plant. Oregon's board believes it is even more imperative that technical issues be resolved and funding continued to complete construction, commissioning and operation of the Waste Treatment Plant, preferably without losing further ground in the schedule.

Funding for new tank capacity should be in addition to the current level of Hanford funding. We should not have to defer planned cleanup work to resolve this problem.

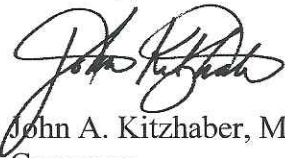
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Nothing has changed from a strategic standpoint: the Hanford cleanup must move forward expeditiously to protect the Columbia River. However, from a tactical standpoint, we cannot count on the Waste Treatment Plant to be operational in time to alleviate the need for additional tank storage capacity. Nor can we count on the existing tanks indefinitely.

Thank you for your involvement working through the myriad of technical issues that have hampered timely progress on the Waste Treatment Plant. The Cleanup Board also supports your efforts and I encourage you to ensure that these issues are resolved in an open and transparent process.

Please contact me if you have any questions about Oregon's concerns about the Hanford cleanup. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Kitzhaber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

JAK/MH/sb